

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1065

By Fowler

A RESOLUTION to create a special TennCare safety-net study committee.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that there is hereby created a special TennCare safety-net study committee, to be composed of the following members:

- (1) A representative of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee;
- (2) A representative of John Deere;
- (3) A representative of the Tennessee Rural Health Association;
- (4) The Commissioner of Finance and Administration or the Commissioner's designee;
- (5) The Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance or the Commissioner's designee;
- (6) The Director of the Bureau of TennCare;
- (7) A representative of pharmacists, to be selected by the Tennessee Pharmacists Association;
- (8) One (1) member of the majority party and one (1) member of the minority party of the Senate and one (1) member of the majority party and one (1) member of the minority party of the House of Representatives, with each such member to be selected by the respective speakers after consultation with the appropriate majority and minority leader of each respective house;
- (9) A representative of Tennessee Medical Association;
- (10) A representative of the Tennessee Hospital Association;

(11) A representative of nurses, to be selected by the Tennessee Nurses Association; and

(12) A representative of the advocacy community, to be selected by the Tennessee Justice Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bureau of TennCare and the Department of Commerce and Insurance shall provide legal counsel to the committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall study and submit a report to the governor and the general assembly with respect to the following issues:

(1) Making recommendations regarding the development of an infrastructure by which health insurance could be made available to individuals and employers in a manner similar to the federal employee health insurance program; and

(2) Making recommendations concerning the feasibility of obtaining a federal waiver under Section 1115 or any other appropriate provision of the federal Social Security Act that would:

(A) Place more financial responsibility on the health care consumer to make wise purchases;

(B) Extend greater choice to consumers;

(C) Take advantage of market forces;

(D) Make private insurance accessible to more people; and

(E) Create greater insurance portability.

In making recommendations concerning the feasibility of implementing the provisions of this subdivision (2), the committee shall also give consideration to obtaining an appropriate waiver that would:

(A) Allow Medicaid eligible persons and any other person not having access to health insurance to purchase health insurance from among more than two (2) insurers licensed under Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, with the state paying the full premium for those persons who are Medicaid eligible and a portion of the premium, based on a sliding scale, for those persons who are not Medicaid eligible, but whose income is at or below one hundred fifty percent

(150%) of the federal poverty level, and those other persons not having access to health insurance paying the full premium; or

(B) Provide a high deductible policy in conjunction with medical savings accounts for Medicaid and non-medical eligible persons; or

(C) Provide a premium assist program whereby premiums could be paid for any Medicaid eligible person having access to employer-provided health insurance; or

(D) Combine any of the foregoing provisions.

The committee report's shall also provide a description of any statutory changes that would be required to make a program such as the one described in subdivision (2) actuarially feasible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall build upon and make appropriate use of the work of the predecessor committee established by Section 30 of Public Chapter No. 474 of 2005.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and shall be paid as members of the General Assembly are paid for attending legislative meetings as provided in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-106.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that non-legislative members of the committee shall serve without compensation of any form.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Fifth General Assembly no later than February 1, 2007, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.